important measures which have been taken by the Railways for improvement in workmanship and longevity of coaches are as under:

(i) ISO certification of Coach Production Units and important Periodic Overhauling Workshops.

(ii) Quality audits of Periodic Overhauling Workshops and Maintenance Depots.

(iii) Strict control on the quality of output from Coach Periodic Overhauling Workshops through the system of Netural Examiners.

(iv) Review and improvements of existing coach maintenance infrastructure and provision of new facilities for additional trains.

(v) Design improvements and introduction of better material to improve reliability of coaches like Bogie mounted brakes, Composite brake blocks, high capacity couplings, etc.

(vi) Broadband analysis of reliability parameters to identify weak systems, depots, workshops direct efforts and resources to eliminate the same.

Besides the above improvements in existing coaches and maintenance system, Railways are also in the midst of Coach Technology Upgradation through induction of State-of-Art coaches and transfer of technology of their design and manufacture.

Telecom and Multimedia Venture of Railways

3774. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry propose to build a nation-wide broadbased Telecom and Multimedia venture;

(b) if so, the details thereof, with initiative to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether some objectives are to be achieved with launch of the above venture;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the passengers would be benefited from this venture; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, with amount involved in the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A policy decision has been taken by the Ministry to build a nation-wide broadband telecom and multi-media

network by laying optical fibre cable along the Railway track by utilising Railways' right of way. Railways have taken steps for developing a business plan which will be implemented through the medium of a professionally managed corporation.

(c) and (d) The objectives of the proposed venture are:

(i) Speedily modernising Railway's telecommunication system to facilitate safety, operations and efficiency;

(ii) Supplementing national telecom infrastructure thereby spurring growth of telecom, internet and IT- enabled services in all parts of country, especially rural and backward areas located in vicinity of Railway track; and

(iii) Generating much needed revenue for implementation of Railways development and safety enhancement schemes.

(e) and (f) The venture will speedily modernise Railway's telecommunication system thereby improving not only Railway's operational efficiency but safety of Railway passengers and trains.

Construction of over Bridges in Punjab

3775. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to construct over bridges at Sirhind, Khanna, Morinda, Kurali and Mandi Gobindgarh in Punjab;

(b) if so, what is the status of the proposal as on date; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to undertake a survey of its own, in view of safety of the public in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b)

(i) *Road Over Bridge at Sirhind:* This is a sanctioned work and will be taken up as soon as State Govt. starts work on approaches.

(ii) *Road Over Bridge at Khanna:* The proposal for replacement of an existing Level crossing near Khanna Railway Station with Road Over Bridge was sponsored by Punjab Govt. in 1986-87. Before it could be